

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T DAMASCUS 5917

EXDIS

E.O. GDS
TAGS: PGOV, IS, SY
SUBJ: SYRIAN QUERY RE ALLEGED ISRAELI-NATO AGREEMENT

1. IN COURSE OF SEPT 19 MEETING, FONMIN KHADDAM UNEXPECTEDLY
RAISED FOLLOWING QUESTION: "WHAT IS THE AMERICAN POSITION
ABOUT THE AGREEMENTY ADYAN CONCLUDED WITH NATO DURING THE
PAST FEW DAYS AND TO WHAT EXTENT WILL THE USG SUPPORT THAT
AGREEMENT?"

2. ASSUMING HE WAS JOKING, I ASKED HIM TO SUMMARIZE THE
PRINCIPLES OF THE AGREEMENT TO WHICH HE WAS REFERRING.
SAID HE HAD IN MIND REPORTS OF NATO-ISRAELI CONSIDERATION
OF CONTINGENCY PLANNING RE RED SEA, DJIBOUTI AND ETHIOPIA.
REPLIED I HAD FOLLOWED RADIO REPORTS OF DAYAN'S MOVEMENTS
AROUND BRUSSELS AND OTHER EUROPEAN CENTERS DURING PAST
DAYS AND HAD HEARD THE ISRAELI RADIO REPORT ABOUT
GENERAL HAIG'S CAR BEING SEEN NEXT TO THAT OF DAYAN. I
COULD ASSURE HIM THAT OUR REPLY, IF HE SERIOUSLY WANTED
ONE, WOULD BE THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO "AGREEMENT" REACHED
WITH NATO. IN THE FIRST PLACE, ANY "AGREEMENT" WOULD
HAVE TO INVOLVE THE ACCORD OF ALL NATO MEMBERS. KHADDAM
INSISTED HIS QUESTION WAS SERIOUS AND ASKED I REFER IT
TO THE DEPARTMENT.

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EM ADVISE WHAT FURTHER ANSWER I SHOULD MAKE TO KHADDAM.
MURPHY

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NNN

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